

conference, I noted that Maryland has three counties in the region and said: "Nothing significant can be accomplished for the distressed counties of Maryland except as a part of a program whose aim would be to rebuild and revitalize the economy of the entire Appalachian Region." A Conference of Appalachian Governors was created at that Conference, and in May, 1961 President Kennedy met with the Governors to consider a joint federal-state effort. Two years later he created the Appalachian Regional Commission, charged with the responsibility of formulating a development plan. This plan was submitted to President Johnson in March, 1964, and a year later the President signed into law the Appalachian Regional Development Act. Our three westernmost counties already are beginning to profit from this far-sighted program, which will include the construction of more than 60 miles of modern high speed highways. Opening Western Maryland to new industry and commerce and renewing it as a link between the Atlantic Coast and the Ohio Valley.

Also, I should like to say just a word about the handling of the taxpayers' dollars during the past eight years. As background, we should keep in mind that Maryland is one of the fastest growing areas of the country and that it has had to increase its governmental services enormously to meet the demands of the people. It has met these demands for expanded and improved services without imposing a tax drain upon either industry or the breadwinner. Over the past eight years, the budget of your State (general, special and federal funds) has roughly doubled—from \$448.2 million in fiscal 1960 to \$885.1 million currently. These unusual financial demands have been met without a general fund tax increase for the needs of the State during the entire period.

Finally, I should like to refer to what I have called my legacy to the people of Maryland for better government. I have in mind two blue-ribbon commissions now engaged in two important missions: (1) to draft a new constitution to replace the present clumsy and out-moded document that has been in existence for 99 years, and (2) to streamline and modernize the administrative machinery of State government. The achievement of these two purposes, together with the reapportionment of the General Assembly which already has taken place, should give the people of Maryland a governmental structure that will serve their purposes adequately for many generations to come. As much as anything else, I should like to be remembered for the part my Administration played in initiating these reforms.

And now, let me express my gratitude to you, my fellow Rotarians